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CHEMISTRY AND THE WAR

[BY F. ROWLINSON.]

[The study of chemistry is so closely bound
up with success in industry, war, and the
arrestment of disease that it is essential
to a wealthy, healthy, and peaceful nation.
—SIR WILLIAM RAMSAY.]

Much has been said about the lack of
intelligent appreciation on the part of
our legislators, military authorities, and
manufacturers of the supreme importance
of scientific knowledge and method.
Much more might be said; but this is
not a time for reiteration—rather is it
an occasion to indicate and to
emphasize the manifold activities of the
trained chemist in connection with the
war. Handicapped by the conservatism of
our capitalists, impeded by the
strangeness between science and com-
merce, the chemical branch of technology
has striven hard, and until recently
vainly, for a recognition of its services
to the country. The army, the navy, the
civil population—the whole nation, in
short—owe a debt of consideration to the
chemists possessed of the requisite know-
ledge and creative skill successfully to
combat a nation whose undivided atten-
tion has been given to the advancement
of this branch of industrial science.
From coal, from oil, from cotton, from
wood, the patient chemist extracts ma-
terials which serve him as sources of the
modern explosives, of beautiful dyes, of
delicate flavourings, and of pain-destroy-
ing drugs to ease the sick and the
wounded. The Government has not come
to recognise the absolute dependence of
our military, naval, and industrial
resources upon the chemist, and now
more use of chemical advice is being
made by them than has hitherto been
conceived possible.

In 1856 Sir William H. Perkin, an
Englishman, then only a youth of
eighteen, patented a process for the pro-
duction of a mauve dye from aniline.
This discovery was the foundation of one
of the most famous industries of the world
—the coal-tar derivative industry. Year
by year it has become more important and
more profitable, and the industry, found-
ed by an Englishman, and first
established in England, is now carried on
principally in Germany. Our manu-
facturers were too careless or short-sighted
even to trouble to maintain the start
given to them—a start in itself worth
millions of pounds. Furthermore, Ger-
many, eager for war and spilling for
world power, seized upon, encouraged,
and perfected an industry which was
unique in being highly profitable in peace
and of vital importance in time of war.
Germany realised that the coal-tar indus-
try is the basis of synthetic chemistry,
and that the whole future of chemistry
is comprised in synthesis. Coal, heated
in a closed retort, yields gas, and a dis-
tillation product of wood, as benzol (or
oil), is used in millions of tons in con-
nection with metallurgical processes,
particularly in the manufacture of iron
and steel. The distillation of the tar
yields light and heavy oils. These,
together with benzol extracted from the
gas, form the foundations of the deriva-
tive industry. They yield anthracene,
naphthalene, benzene, toluene, phenol, the
sources respectively of alizarin, synthetic
indigo, the aniline dyes, and, of vital
importance nowadays, the high explosives.
From a dozen direct derivatives we get
primary and hundred intermediate products.
To the final manufactured articles there is
practically no limit. As the outbreak of
the war there were no less than one thou-
sand individual coal-tar colours, each a
definite chemical compound and not a
mixture. Of the fine chemicals used in
photography and medicine there were
almost as many. We have mentioned
toluene and phenol as examples of coal-
tar products used to make high explo-
sives. By the action of various acids
upon these two, T.N.T. and lyddite
respectively are made. Benzol, besides its
use as a source of other chemicals, has
become a formidable rival as a
cheaper substitute for petrol, and the
benzol industry in this country has
increased at an incredible speed within
the last few years. Ammonia salts are
also coal distillation products indispen-
sable to alkali manufacturers and to farmers.

The raw materials for the production
of propellants, a second class of explosives
used in the war, are derived from the
soapworks, from cotton, and from wood.
Glycerine, cotton, and acetone (a dis-
tillation product of wood, as benzol is of
coal) are manufactured, and the super-
vision of the explosives chemist, into
nitro-glycerine and gun-cotton, and finally
into gelignite, cordite, and dynamite. It
is terribly exacting work, this of the
explosives chemist. A false step, a hasty
movement, a careless gesture even, and
irreparable damage to life and property
is wrought. It is no work for fools; the
chemist takes his life into his hands when
he investigates the mighty forces latent
in materials of the most innocent nature.
Both disruptive and propellant explosives
are "tailor" compounds, and need for
their manufacture sulphuric and nitric
acids. These same acids are also required
in the coal-tar derivative industry. In
this fact lies at once the secret of Ger-
many's preparedness for war and the
difficulty of successfully establishing the
coal-tar dye industry in this country
until the end of the war. Thus Germany
will have ample opportunities for "dump-
ing" before we make our belated efforts.

Steps must be taken to prevent this
"dumping"; but that is a matter for our
legislators rather than our chemists.
Thanks to the British navy the beds of
Chile, the chief source of nitrate, are
always open to us, and closed to our
enemies; no shortage of nitric acid can
be feared. Thanks, too, to the flourish-
ing alkali and heavy chemical industries
of the Widnes and Birmingham districts,
we shall always have abundance of sul-
phuric acid. Mention of the alkali indus-
try suggests the utilisation of the vast
chlorine industry dependent upon the
salt deposits of Cheshire for the manu-
facture of apophytizing gases for use at
the front. The chemist's knowledge of
the application of chemical knowledge to
the manufacture of other
munitions of war.

In metallurgy the influence of the
chemist is becoming more and more
marked. Iron and steel, not to speak of
the other metals, must be systematically
tested at every stage of their manufacture
in order to withstand the tremendous
strains put upon them. None but perfect
materials can be used. This careful
watching and testing requires the services
of specially trained metallurgical
chemists; and, despite the utmost efforts
of Krupp, Britain is in this respect
inferior to no other country. An illustra-
tion suffices. Of the many different
microscopic varieties and compounds
existing in iron and steel, all, without
exception, have been discovered and
defined by the metallurgists of Sheffield
and our other great iron centres. Within
the last few years new steel alloys have
been discovered, and these have even
what are practically new metals so much
do they excel ordinary steels. For the con-
tent between the projectile and armour
these alloys have been of great utility.
Metallurgical chemists are also giving
their attention to electrical methods of
manufacture. Aluminium is perhaps the
best example of the successful application
of electrolysis to metallurgy. Steel and
iron of the finest quality are now made
in increasing quantities wherever electri-
cal power is cheap. Electrical methods
are firmly established for the manufacture
of bleach, soda, carbonyl, and many
other chemicals, and electro-metallurgy
bids fair to become one of the most
important branches of electro-chemistry.

To multiply instances of the successful
application of chemical technology to in-
dustries connected with the manu-
facture of munitions would be tedious.
Sufficient has been said to indicate the
dependence of the art of fighting on the
science of chemistry. There are further
applications, not so intimately connected
with the war, but yet of great importance
to the welfare of the nation. The extra-
ordinary conditions imposed by the war
have only emphasised a problem which
would, sooner or later, have become in-
sistent—that is, the problem of our food-
supply. Chemistry has already come to
the aid of the agriculturist by endeavour-
ing to supply the deficiencies of the soil.
Bacterial change of nitrogenous
animal refuse into nitrates available for
the delicate assimilation of the plant is
a long and tedious process, fascinating
perhaps to the student, but wasteful in
the eyes of the busy farmer. For this
slow natural fertilisation of the soil a
more rapid artificial one may be sub-
stituted. Nitrates from Chile and coke
phosphate of ammonia from the gas and coke
industries supply the requisite nitrogen
by tons. Phosphates, another necessity to
the plant, are supplied as basic slag,
bone-meal, and superphosphate. Chemis-
try has already done this much for our
food-supply; but what of the future?
Nitrates from South America are now ap-
proaching exhaustion; ammonia will be-
come scarcer and scarcer as our coal-sup-
plies give out. And yet the cry will be
all the time for more food! We have
around us in the air an inexhaustible
stock of nitrogen, but in an unavailable
form. The problem of how to make it
available is being even now attacked,
and to some extent, solved. Nitrogen
is being made from the air. By passing air
through a whirling electric arc, a por-
tion, never exceeding a small percentage,
burns, forming nitric acid, which may be
utilised either for explosives or for agri-
cultural purposes. The process is com-
ing into use wherever water-power is
cheap and electricity may be generated
at low cost. Norway, in particular, is
developing this process, which, although
wasteful, has a very bright future. Once
given a method by which all the nitrogen
of the air may be fixed in an economical
manner, the food supply of the world
will be a little worry. Intensive
modes of cultivation will become general.
One acre will yield the produce of two
or three as things are now. Completely
synthetic plant-foods are an industrial
possibility. Synthetic animal foods will
not be far distant. Calves' milk artifi-
cially made was exhibited at the last
Royal Agricultural Show, and found
favour. The future of chemistry
is bound up in synthesis. When we can
reproduce in our laboratories the in-
finite complexity of nature's products,
chemistry will have achieved its aim.
In the near future a trade war with our
enemies will be waged. Let us examine
the position and rôle of chemistry in this
"after-war." Britain has no equal in the
production of "heavy" chemicals, but
with "fine" chemicals she is at present
utterly behindhand. The prevailing
shortage of drugs, organic acids and their
salts, and coal-tar derivatives indicates
the extent to which we have been relying
upon enemy countries for such things.
But steps are already being taken to pro-
mote this most important branch of
chemical industry, so that at the end of
the war we may hope to start upon more
equal terms. Simultaneously with the
development of the synthetic products in-
dustry will come the growth of many de-
pendent industries, notably the contact
process of sulphuric acid manufacture.
Glass, too, for ordinary, for chemical,
and for optical use has hitherto been
chiefly a foreign industry. There is no
reason why Britain should not produce
a glass quite equal to any foreign pro-
duct, provided that the commercial enter-
prise and capital are forthcoming. After
all, the formulae of Jena and such glasses
are now known to our chemists.
In the trades and industries indicated
above, much experimental research will
be necessary and much money must be
spent before we shall be as proficient as
our rivals. What is needed immediately
is more technical education, more sym-
boly between capital and student. After
some training at college and a technical
university, the average student comes out
into the world, and is given a situation
in some badly equipped works "labora-
tory," usually a converted office or
dimmed outbuilding, with purely make-
shift apparatus. Here all ambition, all
originality, all inclination for research
are stifled under the humdrum monotony
of routine work at forty shillings per
week. Most works have a chemist on
retainer only; his work is unappreciated
and, therefore, useless in the de-
partmental managers. Of the three chief
branches of industrial chemistry, analyti-
cal, manufacturing, and research, only
the second is recognised and paid in a
fitting manner. The principal reason for

(Continued at foot of next column.)

HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS

ORDERS BY MAJOR D. MACDONALD, V.D.

Pte. W. W. Wollers joined the Corps on
22nd June, 1917, is allotted Corps No.
2098, and posted to Scouts Company.
Pte. E. E. Joseland joined the Corps on
26th June, 1917, is allotted Corps No.
2100, and posted to Scouts Company.

No. 1884 Spr. W. G. Lawson is granted
1 month's leave from 25th June, 1917.
No. 1882 Pte. E. W. L. Martin is granted
1 month's leave from 10th June, 1917.

The leave granted to No. 1846 Pte. J.
Martin having expired, he is removed
from the strength of the Corps dated
23rd June, 1917.

No. 1503 Pte. A. B. Purves and No. 1504
Pte. Lambert are attached to Belchers
6th Section dated 28th June, 1917.

Detail of duties at Lyceum, from 1st to
15th July, 1917, is posted at Head-
quarters.

Detail of duties for July is posted on
the Notice Board at Headquarters.

To be Bombardier dated 28th June, 1917:—
No. 1313 Acting Bombardier H. S.
Romeo. To be Acting Bombardiers
dated 28th June, 1917:—No. 1584 Gr.
A. H. Carroll, No. 1580 Gr. N. L.
Railton, No. 1632 Gr. H. Wilnau, No.
1404 Gr. W. E. Douglas, No. 1844 Gr.
C. C. Stark.

PARADES.

Tuesday, 3rd July:—

7.10 a.m. Scouts Company M. G.

Detachment at Headquarters.

7.30 a.m. Belchers 6th Section at

Belchers Battery.

5 p.m. Left Section M.G. Co. and

Civil Service Company at King's

Park Range. Annual Musketry

Course.

5.30 p.m. Artillery Battery (Range-

takers only) at Belchers Battery.

5.30 p.m. Stretcher Bearer Section at

Headquarters.

5.30 p.m. Recruits of all units at Head-

quarters under Corps. Edgcombe,

Edmonds and Lee. Cpl. Meade.

5.45 p.m. Signalling Section, "A"

and "B" classes, at Happy Valley.

Wednesday, 4th July:—

5 p.m. Centre Section M.G. Co. at

King's Park Range. Annual

Musketry Course.

5.30 p.m. Right Section M.G. Co.

and Scouts Co. at Headquarters

under unit Commanders. Aiming

Instruction and Firing Instruction.

Thursday, 5th July:—

7.10 a.m. Scouts Co. M.G. Detachment

at Headquarters.

5 p.m. Left Section M.G. Co. and

Civil Service Co. at King's Park

Range. Annual Musketry Course.

5.30 p.m. Mounted Section at Jockey

Club Stables.

5.30 p.m. Artillery Battery (Layers

and Setters only) at Belchers Bat-
tery.

Friday, 6th July:—

7.30 a.m. Belchers 6th Section at

Belchers Battery.

5.00 p.m. Centre Section M.G. Co.

at King's Park Range. Annual

Musketry Course.

5.30 p.m. Right Section M.G. Co. at

Headquarters under unit Com-
mander. Aiming Instruction and
Firing Instruction.

5.30 p.m. Recruits of all units on

Murray Parade Ground under

C.S.M. Mitchell, Corps. Edgcombe

and Edmonds and Lee. Cpl. Meade.

5.30 p.m. Signalling Section, "B"

class, at R. A. Theatre.

5.30 p.m. Artillery Battery (Gun

numbers, others than specialists) at
Belchers Battery.

DETAIL.

On duty 8th July—Scouts Co.

" 9th "—Right Sec. M.G. Co.

" 10th "—Scouts Co.

" 11th "—Right Sec. M.G. Co.

" 12th "—Scouts Co.

" 13th "—Scouts Co.

" 14th "—Scouts Co.

Orderly Officer from 8th to 14th July—
Lieut. Kennott.

G. E. STEWART, Capt.,

Adjutant, H.K.V.O.

Hongkong, 29th June, 1917.

LATEST RUSE OF "U" BOATS.

Cases are becoming more and more
frequent (says *The Times* Christiania
Correspondent) in which German sub-
marines masquerade as fishing vessels.
Captain Fatch, of the steamer *Kong Inge*,
which was sunk in broad daylight, relates
that some fishing vessels came sailing
towards him, one of them at a greater
speed than the rest. As this fact ap-
peared to him suspicious, the Captain called
his crew's attention to it. The suspicion
was well founded. Immediately the first
fishing vessel approached the *Kong Inge*,
it began firing on the steamer, which,
as has been said, was sunk.
German submarines, it appears, are also
in the habit of sending up signals of dis-
tress in order to lure vessels to their doom.

this lack of encouragement is that the
other two are not productive; a week's,
a month's, or even a year's work in the
case of the research chemist is perhaps
represented by a few figures only. The
manufacturing chemist can show for his
efforts a concrete and visible result.
Hence only this branch gets the recogni-
tion it deserves. The work of the analyti-
cal and research chemist must have
significance added to it, and must be popu-
larly recognised as one of the professions.
When we have a better understanding
between our capitalists, legislators, manu-
facturers, and students, together with a
spirit of co-operation between the works
and the university, we may hope to bring
about the union of science and industry.
The country will then be prepared and
ready for combat against all comers, be
they military foes, trade rivals, or dead-
ly diseases.—*Chambers's Journal*.

THREE AND A HALF HOURS'
WAIT NOTICEMR. GERARD'S REVELATION FROM
BERLIN

At the dinner of the American News-
paper Publishers' Association in honour
of the British Major-General Bridges,
Mr. Gerard spoke of Germany's classic
piece of hypocrisy in charging Mr. Wil-
son with "abruptness" in breaking off
relations, and said that the notice Ger-
many gave this Government of its inten-
tion to introduce ruthless submarine at-
tacks would not have allowed America
time even to pay for a drink.
At 7.30 p.m. the Foreign Minister sent
for me. When I came he read me a Note
in German. That took half an hour. He
then declared that they would begin the
submarine war at midnight—three and a
half hours' notice.

FOURTH WAY AND THE TOMMY'S

Major-General Bridges, who delivered
the principal speech of the evening, re-
ceived a tremendous ovation; the entire
audience of 900 editors rising to its feet
and cheering him thunderously when he
quoted the old maxim, "When in doubt,
march to the sound of the gun." He
said:—

"We love French soldiers, and I think
the affection is mutual—widely different
as we are in characteristics. Take an
attack. The Frenchman goes forward
over the parapet shouting, 'Vive la
France!' The British soldier's watch-
word as he fixes bayonet and goes forward
is 'This way to the early door, id.
extra!'"

GERMAN LIES AND SPIES IN
SOUTHERN RUSSIA.

AEROPLANE AND ROCKET MISSILES.

Last month a message for publication
reached the office of the *Odesky Listok*
from Moscow to the following effect:—

"It has transpired that the committee
of miners has received a telegram stating
that Miliukoff has been killed and that
the Allied nations demand the suppression
of the committees of Workmen and
Soldiers' Delegates."

This telegram unfortunately appeared
in the afternoon edition of the *Listok*, but
the issue was soon withdrawn from cir-
culation, as the message was evidently
of a provocative character, originating
either from partisans of Mr. Lenin or from
the Germans.

The Germans are indefatigable in their
efforts to confuse the public mind,
already sufficiently bewildered by the
political developments of the last two
months. While employing every artifice
to induce Russian soldiers to "fraternize"
at the front, they scatter legends by means
of aeroplanes and even of rockets, both
at the front and in the rear, announcing
the outbreak of a counter-revolution in
Petrograd and the fall of the Provisional
Government. I have had an opportunity
(says *The Times* correspondent in the
Balkan Peninsula) of inspecting some of
these missiles, which possess certain in-
ventive ingenuity but have so far failed
to produce results commensurate with the
trouble expended on their circulation.

HONGKONG RESERVES.

ORDERS BY MAJOR WAKEMAN, O.C., H.K.V.O.

DETAIL.

On duty from the morning of Sunday,

1st July, to the morning of Sunday,

8th July—"A" Coy. H.K.V.O.

Orderly Officer—2nd Lieut. A. M. Thorn-

hill.

Next for duty—H.K.V.O.

PARADES FOR THE WEEK ENDING 7TH JULY.

Monday, 2nd July:—

Recruits on the Cricket Ground at

6.15 p.m. under Instructor Sergt.

Oxberry. Dress: Drill order.

Signalling Section: "A" and "B"

Classes at Volunteer Headquarters

at 6.15 p.m., and "C" Class at

Volunteer Headquarters at 5.30

p.m. Dress: Clean fatigue.

Machine-gun Section at Wellington

Barracks at 5.15 p.m. Dress: Clean

fatigue.

Mounted Section at Polo Ground at

5.30 p.m. Dress: Drill order.

Tuesday, 3rd July:—

"A" and "B" Coys. on the road

outside the Orderly Room at 5 p.m.

Kowloon and Taiako Sections on

the Polo Ground at 5.15 p.m.

Dress: Drill order.

Wednesday, 4th July, nil.

Thursday, 5th July:—

Signalling Section: The whole sec-

tion will parade at Happy Valley

Station Work. Fall in at

Monument at 5.30 p.m. Dress:

Clean fatigue.

Machine-gun Section at Wellington

RAID ON GOVERNMENT
QUARTERSLOTTERY TICKET PRINTING BUSINESS
IN SERVANTS' ROOMS.

Large quantities of type, printers' ink, and the numerous things incidental to a fairly extensive printing business figured in Mr. Wood's Court at the Hongkong Magistracy yesterday when five Chinese were charged in connection with a raid on Government quarters on the Peak on the 19th inst. Inspector Brazil and others visited the servants' quarters of 4, Stewart Terrace, occupied by Messrs. Lloyd and Schofield, and found large quantities of types, etc., which revealed the fact that an extensive lottery ticket printing business was being carried on. The No. 1 "boy" got away, but five arrests were made, three of the arrested men being servants on the premises. The charges were printing and publishing lottery tickets and keeping a common gaming house, and two of the defendants were charged with aiding and abetting in the printing and publishing of the tickets.

Mr. Leo d'Almada defended four of the defendants.

Sergt. Cashman said that on the 19th inst., about 8.30 p.m., he executed a warrant at 4, Stewart Terrace, in company with Inspector Brazil and a Chinese detective. When they got into the servants' quarters they found, in the first room, three of the defendants, who were left in charge of the Chinese detective. Witness went in search of and found another defendant, and when he attempted to enter another room he found that the door was being held by someone on the other side. He forced the door open and on going into the room he saw another defendant, who was sitting down in front of a printing press, the one in Court. Witness arrested him, and upon examining the printing press found that the ink upon it was fresh. A page had also been set. There was also printer's ink about and brushes. In the room, also, there was a quantity of sheets of paper, each sheet being partly printed. Another roll of sheets had all been printed. Another find was a table containing drawers. In one of the drawers was a quantity of set type and also small printed slips, lottery tickets. The other drawer contained a number of blank slips used for printing lottery tickets, and also some books. In another room, underneath a bed, he found a large roll of paper, and also a further quantity of set type. After these finds the five defendants were sent to the police station. Later in the evening witness returned to the house, and, in the kitchen, he found eight type cases, six of which contained type, a bundle of paper, and a small wooden box also containing type. On the floor, also, there was a large quantity of Chinese "chits."

By Mr. d'Almada—The warrant was directed against the whole of 4, Stewart Terrace, but he did not suspect all the tenants of the house. He satisfied himself that the premises were occupied by Mr. Lloyd before he went into the house. He did not know that the servants of the house were concerned in the affair until he went into the house. He did not receive the information which resulted in the raid. He had no reason to believe that the owners of the premises were concerned in the affair at all. Though he went into the servants' quarters he did not suspect them until he saw what the rooms contained. Since the occurrence he had made enquiries and had been informed by Mr. Lloyd that his No. 1 "boy" had disappeared. One of the defendants was Mr. Lloyd's cook, another was Mr. Schofield's "boy," and a third was a coolie. The other two had nothing to do with the house.

The Chief Chinese Detective gave expert evidence as to the nature of the type, the printed slips, etc. He expressed the opinion that all was being used for the printing of lottery tickets. Witness read several of the forms of set type, which showed that they related to lotteries, some of the drawings having already taken place.

Three of the defendants were discharged, the Magistrate deciding that there was nothing against them. One of the remainder was fined \$500, or six months' imprisonment, and the fifth was remanded.

AN IRON ROOF.

CONTRACTORS AT LAW.

An iron roof was the subject of litigation at the Hongkong Supreme Court yesterday, when the Tai Lee firm, building contractors, claimed the sum of \$3,450.20 from the Ying Loong Hing firm, also building contractors. The sum was for work done and materials supplied in January, 1916.

Mr. Y. H. Tann, barrister, instructed by Mr. J. H. Gardiner, appeared for plaintiffs. Defendants were not represented, nor did they put in an appearance.

Mr. Tann said he had received a letter from Mr. R. C. Faithfull acknowledging his (Mr. Tann's) letter giving notice of the date on which the proceedings would be heard. But neither he nor his clients had put in an appearance, and he would merely prove the case. The contract entered into between the two parties was that plaintiffs should carry out the work of removing the whole of the iron roof of the International Bank, Shameen, Canton, and also replace it with hard wood. Plaintiffs' price for this work was \$3,000, but it was also agreed that if there should be any additional work or materials supplied, an extra sum should be charged over and above the contract price. Extra work was done and more materials were supplied, which brought up the cost to \$3,450.20. The work was completed some five months after the signing of the contract, and, as the work progressed, instalments fell due and application was made for payment by the partners of the plaintiff firm. The defendants, however, refused to make any payment whatsoever, making a number of excuses, and eventually the defendants became very angry and stated that they would never pay a single cash. Further application was made, and one of the plaintiff partners succeeded in getting a loan of \$15 from one of the defendant partners, for which he gave a receipt. This was the only sum that had ever been paid.

His Lordship gave judgment for plaintiffs with cost.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

OPIUM.

A case in which a Chinese was charged with being in possession of 32 tael of opium was adjourned until to-day.

AN OLD THIEF.

Sentence of three months' hard labour and four hours' stocks was imposed upon a Chinese who, in addition to stealing a bowl, also had a record of previous convictions against his name.

JEWELLERY THEFT.

A Chinese was charged before Mr. Dyer Ball with the theft of a gold-filled watch, a gold chain, a gold toe-clip, a gold locket and a gold mounted jade charm from 184, Queen's Road West. The jewellery is valued at \$124. The case was remanded.

QUARREL WITH THE LANDLADY.

When his landlady refused to allow him to lock his door a Chinese lodger endeavoured to explain to her that she had no right to do this. The lodger also tried to force the woman away from the door. Upon this she struck him with a book. This excited the lodger, who pushed the landlady down with such force that she sustained several injuries.

Mr. Wood fined the lodger \$50.

EXCHANGE BUSINESS.

Ten thousand copper cash figured in a case in which a Chinese was charged with attempting to import these coins into the Colony.

Inspector Davitt said that there was a great deal of this sort of business going on at the present time. Copper cash were very cheap in China and they were brought down here to be exchanged for silver dollars, which were dear. The man was arrested as he was leaving a Canton boat.

The defendant stated that he was merely a wharf coolie, and had been employed to carry the cash. He could be able to find the man who employed him if he were allowed to do so.

The Magistrate decided to give the defendant an opportunity of finding his employer, and the case was adjourned.

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET.

Messrs. Vernon & Smyth, in their weekly share-report dated the 29th June, 1917, state:—

Since our last report of 22nd June, we have no improvement to record in our local market, which remains as dull and inactive as ever. Apart from a few transactions to square the Settlement, the volume of business has been very small. Shanghai market for Cotton Shares has been rather better. Singapore market is dull but prices keep steady, and in fact it does not seem easy to buy some of the favourite Rubber shares at the quotations. The Malaka Pinda Company has announced a second interim dividend of 10 per cent. The following are our to-day's wired quotations:—

Alor Gajah	\$ 4.05
Ayer Panas	11.25
Glenclyns	2.20
Kedahs	4.25
Kempas	7.75
Malaka Pinda	2.90
Malakoff	4.10
New Serendah	4.20
Sandycrofts	4.75
Tapahs	10.00

Plantation Rubber in London is quoted 2/5½. Bar Silver is quoted at 39½. Sterling T.T. is 2/6 3/8. Singapore T.T. is 107½. Shanghai T.T. is nominal at about 65½, and the Bank's buying rate for 3d/s Bills is nominal at about 66½.

BANKS.—In sympathy with exchange, this market is lower, and Hongkong and Shanghai Bank shares are offering at \$68½, small sales having been made at \$68.

MARINE INSURANCES.—No business is reported. Unions are on offer at \$355. Cantons can probably be obtained at \$340. North Chinas are nominal at Tls. 150. Yangtszes are wanted at \$190 at ex. 73.

FIRE INSURANCES.—There is no change to report. China Fires are still wanted at \$143. Hongkong Fires are nominal at \$325.

SHIPPING.—Very little business has transpired in this market. Douglas's remain very quiet, with a nominal quotation of \$55. Indo-Chinas Deferred were done at \$102 and \$101½, and are now wanted at \$101 in places where there were sellers at the rate a few days ago. Steamboats have been in good request, and close with buyers at \$17½, and probably rather more would be paid. Star Ferries are nominal at \$29.

OILS.—Shells are in request at 118/- cum dividend and rights. Langkats have buyers from the North at Tls. 15½. Ural Caspians are nominal, at the reduced quotation of 32/-.

REFINERIES.—A moderate business was done over the settlement at \$100 and \$99, and at the latter rate there are further buyers. Malabons could be placed at \$29.

MINES.—Kailans have improved to a buying rate of 34/5, but no business is reported. Sales of Tronohs have been made at 25/6, and more shares could be placed. Raubs remain nominal and unchanged at \$2.45.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, after improving to \$118, were done over the Settlement at \$116, and at this rate they close with buyers. Kowloon Wharves have been sold at \$74, and further shares are obtainable at the rate. Shanghai Docks have improved their position, and are now wanted for the North at Tls. 93½.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—This has been a very quiet market. Sales of Hotels are reported at \$97, and of Humphreys at \$6.30. Lands are wanted at \$53. Kowloon Lands are offering at \$53, and Centrals at the reduced rate of \$97. West Point's have a nominal quotation of \$74.

COTTON MILLS.—Market has kept steady and would seem to have an improving tendency. Shanghai Cottons could be placed at Tls. 123½. Kuna Yiks at Tls. 14½, and Yangtszepoos at Tls. 5.60. Ewos remain nominal at Tls. 157½.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Cements are rather lower, and after sales at \$7.60 a fair business has been done at \$7.40, and they close with probable buyers at the rate. Electric is in demand at \$48, and Watsons at \$6. Tramways could probably be placed at \$6.40. Ropes are nominal at \$27. China Borneos at \$7. China Lights at \$4. Providents are wanted at \$7.60. Mexico—Next Settlement Day 27th July.

CUT-OFF BRITISH HOLD OUT

MIDDLESEX AND THE ARGYLLS.

SPLENDID WORCESTERS.

[FROM W. BEACH THOMAS.]

A stand that recalls the feat of the West Kents in Trone Wood (in the Somme Battle) is to be recorded of two parties of British troops. They had charged and taken 14 men and 9 officers prisoners.

This charge of our troops was followed by one of the most successful of all the German counter-attacks. We were driven back quite to our original line, these two companies alone excepted. Though surrounded by advancing waves, they held firm, lost very few men, and dealt many shrewd blows at the enemy who passed them, and they clung to their prisoners, who seem to have been in real fear lest they should be killed. While still fighting on this island, or peninsula, they saw the approach of a new danger. Our artillery opened in volume on the advancing Germans, among whom these Middlesex and Argyll and Sutherlands found themselves.

Would the shells fall on their island as well as on the encircling enemy? Happily our gunners had observed the situation and the shells fell in a beautiful curtain just beyond this stalwart garrison, quite protecting them from further attack from the east. Further encouraged by this cheering spectacle, their officers decided to hold on to the end, come what might. And they held until the triumphant moment when our troops, gathering strength, rushed back the Germans.

RETREATING ENEMY.

The garrison took toll of the enemy retreating at full speed past them, and soon were ranged again in line with our renewed advance, and their heroic adventure had a happy ending.

All this ground is strewn thick as no ground that we have ever seen with German dead. They lie everywhere open to the heavens, for never before have charges and counter-charges traversed such wide spaces above ground or men on either side so clearly seen their enemy face to face. Even the men at the guns have watched the effect of their own fire. Nevertheless, the dead here at the extreme left of the German 6th Army are few and widely scattered compared with the dead in front of the English troops who stormed Gavrelle, north of the river, at the southern edge of the Vimy Ridge. The enemy yielded the village easily, and no fewer than 80 prisoners were taken in a block. One cellar with four machine guns. But their efforts to recapture it were as determined as the original defence was weak. Five assaults in force were launched on one day, and a yet more powerful one on the next day. All were beaten back with loss, and the last three were almost annihilated. Our shrapnel swept the whole of the ranks down as they advanced and did almost equal havoc to the rest, who retreated.

The dead lie in heaps before our position. That phrase has doubtless been used more often than it has been justified, but in this case it is true in a literal and natural sense. A body lies upon a body where our fire caught successive waves. REACHED WORCESTERS' STAND FOR 36 HOURS. The story of the great stand by the men of the Argyll and Sutherland and the Middlesex Regiments was paralleled at the same time by the experiences of a Worcester regiment at another part of the field. Two great and temporarily successful German charges swept back their neighbours on both flanks. They were rather better entrenched and were able to set up a more scientific defence, and so kept their front intact. Though one wave of at least 3,000 Germans succeeded in another of at least 4,000, drove past them and broke over them, no man thought of surrender. They were able to signal back to their friends, and careful control of their munitions enabled them to react on the enemy, but they were completely cut off. Their water failed and they suffered agonies of thirst.

All the while a hurricane of shell fire burst on all sides and the dust and smoke added to their thirst and the strain, but they held a sturdy faith that the tide which had ebbed so violently would flow again, though it seemed "no rain in a inch to rain." They knew that they belonged to a unit which has never deserted its friend or feared the final sacrifice.

At last, after a day and a night and a day, they noticed the Germans beginning to give, and had some real palpable hope again. After another 12 or 14 hours of hope further deferred, the last rearguard of the retreating enemy ran by on their left, and close on their heels their friends came up. A few minutes later small supplies of water reached them. Some men had completely lost their voices, and few could speak clearly. Tongues were swollen and lips parched to extremity, even in those who had suffered no wounds.

ACCORDING TO OUR PLAN.

Another much smaller island of our men held out with equal courage during the same series of encounters, and very daring attempts were made by our water-carriers, as brave as Kipling's Gunga Din, to carry supplies forward, but in the dark they went astray into the German ranks, and neither carriers nor the little garrison were found when at last our successful charge went home and we finally routed the enemy from this neighbourhood.

Unconscious humour in places of worship does not always come from the pulpit. At a church where the selection of the hymns formed part of the organist's duty, the feelings of the minister, who had just delivered a fiery sermon upon "Hell" may be better imagined than described when, on its conclusion, the organist began to play the hymn tune "What must it be to be there?" Equally inappropriate to the occasion was the musical number selected to follow a tedious long sermon by the pastor (who was no orator), the anthem "Now it is high time to awake out of sleep."

INTIMATIONS

LANE,
CRAWFORD & Co.

(ESTABLISHED 1850).

(TELEPHONE 1741).

NEW STOCKS OF
BLACK, BROWN AND PATENT."WALK-OVER"
BOOTS and SHOES

\$12.00 \$13.50 \$14.50 \$16.50 per pair.

THESE PRICES ARE REMARKABLY LOW AS BOOT

PRICES GO NOWADAYS.

WE CAN GIVE YOU A LARGE SELECTION IN ALL

WEIGHTS AND SIZES.

THE VALUE IS UNQUESTIONABLE, AS THE COMFORT

AND SERVICE OF EVERY PAIR WILL PROVE.

SOLE AGENTS:

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

18

A.V.C. FINEST OLD LIQUEUR
BRANDY.

GUARANTEED 30 YEARS OLD.

V. D. CLARETS. V. D. SAUTERNES.
V. D. BURGUNDIES.

Stocked by HONGKONG HOTEL.

Obtainable at LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

A. & B. MACKAY'S LIQUEUR
WHISKY.
THE ORIGINAL LIQUEUR
WHISKY.

PRICE \$24.00 PER CASE DUTY PAID.

Has a fine mild flavour and a refreshing clean taste.

Obtainable at all Local Stores.

and at LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

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Powell Ltd

TELEPHONE 340

JUST ARRIVED!

A VARIED ASSORTMENT

OF

LADIES'
TENNIS AND GOLF
SHOES.

NOW ON SHOW.

INTIMATIONS

GENERAL HOLIDAY

UNDER Ordinance No. 5 of 1912, MONDAY, 2nd July, has been proclaimed a GENERAL HOLIDAY, and the EXCHANGE BANKS will be CLOSED for Business on that day.
Hongkong, 27th June, 1917. [778]

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY
(BRITISH SECTION).

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that commencing on SATURDAY, 30th instant, and on each succeeding Saturday until further notice, Tickets will not be supplied on the Train leaving Kowloon at 1.28 p.m.
By Order,
H. P. WINSLOW,
Manager. [780]

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF HONGKONG AND SOUTH CHINA, E.C.

NOTICE

A SPECIAL MEETING of the DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF HONGKONG AND SOUTH CHINA, held at the Masonic Hall, 2, Zeland Street, on SATURDAY, 23rd inst., in celebration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the first Assembly of the Grand Lodge of England, which was commenced on that day throughout the Empire, a collection was made in aid of the

HONGKONG WAR CHARITIES FUND.

Proceedings not present at the Meeting who wish to subscribe may, until 7th July, send donations to W. J. TORRES, Esq., who will be glad to receive contributions however small.
By Command of the D. D. G. M.
Hongkong, 27th June, 1917. [781]

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Partnership formerly subsisting between the Undersigned and Mr. POON WAN KOCK carrying on business under the style or firm name of UNION TRADING COMPANY in the Colony of Hongkong and elsewhere has been dissolved as from the 31st December, 1916, so far as concerns the said Mr. POON WAN KOCK, who retired from the said firm on that date.
Dated Hongkong, 27th June, 1917.
(Sd.) S. M. CHUEN,
(Sd.) C. HONEY. [777]

HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LTD.

NOTICE

OWING to the GREATLY INCREASED COST of Manufacture it has been decided to raise the PRICE OF ICE to 14 cents per lb. as from the 1st July next.
JARDINE MATHESON & Co., Ltd.,
General Managers.
Hongkong, 22nd June, 1917. [780]

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONGKONG.

ST JOHN'S HALL.

THE SENIOR HOSTEL for the Residence of Students at Hongkong University. Applications for Rooms for September should be made now to the

The Acting Warden,
ST JOHN'S HALL,
University, Hongkong. [788]

FOR SALE.

DO NOT MISS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY.

BEAN and Nut OIL MILL PLANT in perfect working order for sale at next to scrap-iron price.
Please address enquiries to—
"K."
Care of "Daily Press" Office. [776]

FOR SALE.

BAGS OF USED ASIATIC POSTAGE STAMPS.
400 Stamps for \$1.50 8000 Stamps for \$12.00
500 " " 0.80 3000 " " 3.20
1000 " " 1.50 4000 " " 2.70
1500 " " 1.50 5000 " " 2.50

GRACA & CO.,
No. 4, WYNDHAM STREET,
Hongkong.

NOTICE

ANY EUROPEAN, Non-Asiatic or Indian desiring to leave the Colony should apply in person at the Central Police Station between the hours of 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. daily.
Applicants will be required to produce Passports or identification papers.
All persons with certain exceptions who remain in the Colony for more than 7 days are required to register themselves under the REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ORDINANCE, 1914.
Forms of Registration giving the particulars required may be obtained at the G.P.O. and at all Police Stations.
The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine not exceeding \$50.

AUCTIONS

G. R.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

PARTICULARS and CONDITIONS of the letting by Public Auction Sale, to be held on TUESDAY, the 3rd day of July, 1917, at 3 P.M., at the Office of the PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, by Order of His Excellency THE GOVERNOR, of One Lot of CROWN LAND above Bowen Road, in the Colony of Hongkong, for a term of 75 years, with the option of renewal at a CROWN RENT to be fixed by the Surveyor of His Majesty THE KING, for one further term of 75 years.

PARTICULARS OF THE LOT.

Locality	Boundary Measurements (Approximate)	Containing	Square Feet	Annual Rent	Dist. Price
Lot 101, Section "A" of Marine Lot No. 101, together with the messuages, erections and buildings and buildings thereon known as No. 7, Queen's Road Central, Victoria aforesaid. Term 99 years, created by a Crown Lease dated the 8th day of April, 1893.	101-6445 sq. ft.	Proportion of Annual Crown Rent \$34.45			
Area in respect of Section "B" of Marine Lot No. 101-675 sq. ft. Proportion of Annual Crown Rent \$3.75.					

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions from the Liquidators of Messrs. JAMES & Co. in pursuance of an order of the Hongkong Government to sell by public auction at 12 o'clock (Noon) on TUESDAY, the 3rd day of July, 1917, at his Sales Rooms, Duddell Street, THE VALUABLE LEASEHOLD PROPERTY situated at The Peak, Hongkong, and being RURAL BUILDING LOT No. 19.

In One Lot.

The Property consists of:—
The piece of parcel of ground and premises known as "Lyahol," 104, The Peak, situated near Mount Gough, in the Colony of Hongkong, with an area of 124,033 square feet and registered in the Land Office as Rural Building Lot No. 19.

The Lot is held for the unexpired residue of a term of 75 years created therein by an indenture of Crown Lease dated the 23rd day of April, 1896.
The Annual Crown Rent is \$38.60.
For further particulars and conditions of sale apply to—
Messrs. WILKINSON & GRIST,
Solicitors for the Liquidators,
or to the Undersigned,
GEO. P. LAMBERT,
Auctioneer. [697]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

BY direction of the Government of Hongkong, Messrs. HUGHES & HOUGH have received instructions to sell by Public Auction,

On MONDAY,

the 13th day of August, 1917, at 3 P.M., at their Sales Room, Ice House Street, Victoria, Hongkong.

The Following VALUABLE LEASEHOLD PROPERTY situated at Victoria, Hongkong, viz:—

ALL THOSE pieces or parcels of ground situated at Victoria aforesaid and known and registered in the Land Office as SECTION "A" OF MARINE LOT NO. 101 and SECTION "B" OF MARINE LOT NO. 101. Together with the messuages, erections and buildings and buildings thereon known as No. 7, Queen's Road Central, Victoria aforesaid. Term 99 years, created by a Crown Lease dated the 8th day of April, 1893.

Area in respect of Section "A" of Marine Lot No. 101-6445 sq. ft. Proportion of Annual Crown Rent \$34.45.
Area in respect of Section "B" of Marine Lot No. 101-675 sq. ft. Proportion of Annual Crown Rent \$3.75.

For further particulars and conditions of sale apply to—
JOHNSON, STOKES & MASTER,
Principals Buildings,
Ice House Street, Hongkong,
Solicitors for the Liquidator of THE DEUTSCHE ASIATISCHE BANK, or to
Messrs. HUGHES & HOUGH,
The Auctioneers.
Hongkong, 24th May, 1917. [615]

FOR EUROPE AND AMERICA.

INDIA, AUSTRALIA, Etc.,

PRIVATE RESIDENCE AT THE OUTPOSTS

A Comprehensive and Complete Record

of the

NEWS OF THE FAR EAST

Is given in the

HONGKONG WEEKLY

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the World.

HOUSES TO LET

TO LET.

A T Macao, a NICE FURNISHED HOUSE in the best locality, for Summer. Immediate possession.
Apply to—
OFFICE of PEAK HOTEL, [775]

TO LET.

NOS. 3A & B, ROBINSON ROAD.
Apply to—
DAVID SABSOON & Co., Ltd. [625]

TO LET.

1 NEW HOUSE in Conduit Road. Ready for occupation. Also 1 GODOWN in Duddell Street.
For rent and other particulars apply to—
H. M. H. NEMAZER,
1 Des Voeux Road. [402]

TO LET.

A FIVE-ROOMED HOUSE, with Tennis Court, in Minden Villa, Kowloon.
A FLAT in Nathan Road, Kowloon.
Apply to—
HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE Co., Ltd.,
Alexandra Buildings. [623]

TO LET.

OFFICES at 2, Connaught Road Central.
HOUSES in King's and York Buildings.
HOUSES to Let, Wongzichong Road.
HOUSES in Chiton Gardens, Connaught Road.
HOUSES in Broadwood and Moreton Terraces.
HOUSES on Shamone, Canton.
Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY Co., Ltd. [626]

WANTED.

A HOUSE or WHOLE FLOOR with about 10 Rooms in a central location. Please apply to—
Box No. 1,
Care of "Daily Press" Office. [707]

WANTED.

OFFICE at the Central Location.
Apply to—
FURUKAWA & Co.,
20, Des Voeux Road Central. [703]

NOTICES TO CONSIGNEES

S.S. "DUMBEA,"
COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

NOTICE.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo from Harbin, etc., in connection with above steamer are hereby informed that their Goods with the exception of Opium, Treasure and Valuables are being landed and stored at their risks into the hazardous and or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., at Kowloon, whence delivery may be obtained immediately after landing.
Optional Cargo will be forwarded on unless intimation is received from the Consignee before Noon To-day requesting it to be landed here.
Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the Undersigned. Goods remaining unclaimed after the 4th July, at Noon, will be subject to rent and landing charges.
All Claims must be sent in to me or before the 8th July, or they will not be recognized.
All damaged packages will be examined on TUESDAY, the 3rd July, at 10 A.M.
No Fire Insurance has been effected.
P. THOMAS, Agent. [62]

ON SALE.

A TABLE OF THE

RATES OF EXCHANGE

AT HONGKONG

FOR

DEMAND DRAFTS ON BOMBAY

On the Day preceding the Departure of the English Mails from the Year of the Closing of the Indian Mails to the Free Coinage of Silver

FROM 1890 to 1899;

AND

RATES FOR SOVEREIGN, GOLD

LEAF, BAR SILVER (From 1890).

and other Useful Information.

Price 51 Cms.

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INTIMATION

BY APPOINTMENT.

WATSON'S
STONE
GINGER-
BEER

The only fermented Stone Ginger-Beer in the Far East.

The real charm of Stone Ginger-Beer is the flavour produced by partial fermentation; without this no Stone Ginger-Beer can be said to be genuine.

\$1.00 per doz.



A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,

AERATED WATER MANUFACTURERS.

TELEPHONE 436

[12]

DEATHS

HUMPHREYS—Suddenly at sea, on Tuesday, 19th inst., on board the *Empress of Asia*, W. G. HUMPHREYS.—By cable. [778]

WALLACE—On the 29th June, at the Government Civil Hospital, after a long illness, JAMES WALLACE, aged 46. [783]

HONGKONG OFFICE: 104, DES VOEUX ROAD, C. LONDON OFFICE: 181, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, 30th JUNE, 1917.

THE MESOPOTAMIA MUDDLE.

THE report of the Commission appointed to inquire into the conduct of the campaign in Mesopotamia is a damning indictment which fully justifies the strictures that were passed upon the operations in this theatre of war by *The Times* in March of last year, and taken in conjunction with the Munitions scandal and the Dardanelles failure, shows that a rigorous Press Censorship such as that which was imposed when hostilities first broke out would not have been an unmixed blessing to the nation if it had been permitted to continue. The expedition to the Persian Gulf opened in November of 1914, and for nearly twelve months afterwards was uniformly successful; indeed, Mr. ASQUITH announced in the House of Commons that our forces were "within measurable distance of Baghdad." But, as at Gallipoli, just when the objective seemed to be within reach it was snatched from our grasp. The case with which our progress had been made led us, apparently, to underestimate the enemy and to push on through a roadless country, destitute of supplies and transport, without proper preparations. The consequences were disastrous. At Ctesiphon the retreating Turks took up a prepared position, where they were strongly reinforced, and General Townshend, who had been sent in pursuit with a weary and inadequate force, was obliged, after suffering 4,500 casualties, to fall back upon Kut. Here he was invested, and, after a gallant defence lasting nearly five months, during

which several ineffectual attempts were made to relieve him, he was compelled to capitulate in consequence of the exhaustion of his supplies, and the garrison of eleven thousand troops was taken prisoner by the enemy. In the meantime, "the veil of secrecy and silence," which had been discreetly drawn over the Tigris when matters went awry was lifted by the *Times*, which, in a leading article entitled "Mismanagement in Mesopotamia," said:—"The statements transmitted to us from many quarters seem to point to something like a breakdown of the medical arrangements. It is said that the field hospitals are too few, are badly equipped, and inadequately staffed. Medical requisites are sometimes lacking, and the scarcity of doctors is deplorable. We have now heard of case after case in which seriously wounded officers and men have been left for two or three days with no further attention to their injuries than the first field dressing. The river steamers on the Tigris are said to make their voyage downstream with the decks strewn with wounded men, insufficiently provided with coverings to shield them from the bitter cold of a Chaldean winter's night. The larger vessels which carry the wounded through the Persian Gulf to Bombay are imperfectly staffed, and one correspondent says that wounded have been arriving at the Bombay Docks in a condition which recalls SMOLLETT's account of the attack on Cartagena. Another correspondent says that the torments of rain, flooding trenches and camps, make many wounds gangrenous. But the principal complaint, which has now been reaching us in increasing volume for some weeks, is that doctors and nurses are scarce, that medical requisites and comforts are lacking, and that lives are being lost through neglect due to imperfect organization. We fear the later stages of the Mesopotamian operations have in many respects been very badly run. Few casualties were expected, and no provision was made for a flood of wounded. Entrenched positions on the open plain were attacked in January without adequate artillery preparation, and the consequences were grave. To-day the transport is insufficient for the requirements of a large force." The strong criticisms which these revelations called forth in the Press and in Parliament led to a complete reorganization, and the result of this was seen last March, when General MAUDE entered Baghdad after a brilliant pursuit of the Turks, who were compelled to retire in great disorder after suffering heavy losses. It is this which enables the Commissioners to declare that "notwithstanding the period of reverses the success of the campaign as a whole has been remarkable," and that nowhere have "more substantial or more solid victories" been achieved than in Mesopotamia. Probably this is all we should have heard if an immediate investigation of the facts had not been insisted upon. As it is, we are told that the medical provision "was insufficient from the beginning and ultimately resulted in a lamentable breakdown after the battles of 1915-16 and most lamentable and severe suffering." The Commissioners find that Surgeon-General HATHAWAY "showed unfifness for his office," and they severely censure the Commander-in-Chief in India, Sir BRUCE CAMPBELL, who "not only failed closely to superintend the adequacy of medical provision but, until the Viceroy's superior authority forced him, declined to take notice of rumours which were true." They also criticize the failure of the Commander-in-Chief to visit Mesopotamia periodically; either in person or by his representatives. "The general armament and equipment were quite insufficient to meet the needs. The whole system of commissariat was badly organised during the period of Indian Government responsibility and, though there was no general breakdown, the Simla authorities bestowed meagre attention and illiberal treatment to the expedition's wants during 1914-15. The supply of reinforcements was also insufficient." The Commissioners describe the advance towards Baghdad in October, 1915, as "an offensive movement based on political and military miscalculations. It was attempted with tired and insufficient forces and inadequate preparation and resulted in the Kut disaster. The weighty share of responsibility for the untoward advance lies with General Sir JOHN NIXON, whose confident optimism was the main cause of the decision. The Indian military authorities insufficiently realized from the first

(adds the Report) the paramount importance of river and railway transport in Mesopotamia, and their responsibility was grave. General Sir JOHN NIXON was responsible for recommending the 1915 advances, with insufficient transport and equipment. The transport shortage at the beginning of 1916 rendered the Kut relief operations fatal." Painful as these disclosures are, it is in the national interest that they should be made new, so that those who are culpable may be no longer entrusted with responsibilities which they have shown themselves so utterly incapable of discharging.

The Bishop of Victoria will be the preacher at the Cathedral to-morrow (Sunday) morning. The evening service at the Peak Church will be resumed on July 8th.

A Chinese woman has been sent to the Government Civil Hospital suffering from the effects of immersion. It seems that she was married four days ago, had a quarrel with her husband, and then jumped into the harbour.

TWO MORE HONGKONG
AEROPLANES FOR THE FRONT
OVERSEAS CLUB'S SUCCESSFUL
APPEAL

Mr. J. J. Bryan, the local Corresponding Secretary of the Overseas Club, informs us that he cabled to the Overseas Club, London, yesterday the following amounts for the purchase of two aeroplanes:—

\$2,250 for a 100 horse-power gun-mounted Aeroplane, given Mr. A. R. Love, who, it will be remembered, offered to give an aeroplane on the condition that the General Community subscribed another by July 1st.

\$1,500 for a 70 horse-power Aeroplane subscribed by Residents of Hongkong in response to the appeal made by the local branch of the Overseas Club.

ON THE "PHEUMPHENH"

At the Hongkong Summary Court yesterday, before Mr. Justice Gompertz, the case was mentioned in which W. J. Stocks is suing Captain de la Sala for the sum of \$1,000, for alleged libel.

Mr. Grist said he understood that the parties desired to argue the legal points of the case and then have it tried before a judge and jury.

The Puisne Judge remarked that he would appoint a day next week for that purpose.

CHINA MAIL STEAMSHIP CO'S
NEW PURCHASE.

THE S.S. "CONGRESS" TO BE RENAMED THE "NANKING."

Contracts covering the purchase by the China Mail Steamship Co., Ltd., and reconstruction of the former Pacific Coast Steamship Company's *Congress* were concluded in the latter part of May, and, according to present advices, the ship should be ready for service on the Pacific some time during November, and may be expected to leave Hongkong about the end of December.

The vessel which was built in 1913, is 442 ft. long, 55 ft. beam, 7,985 tons gross, 4,612 tons net, displacement 13,800 tons, has a double bottom throughout, has twin screws, burns oil fuel, and has a speed of about 16 knots.

As reconstructed by the Seattle Construction and Dry Dock Co., she will have a passenger capacity for approximately 190 cabin passengers, 100 second and 500 steerage, and will be first-class, modern and up-to-date in every respect. When full up with steerage passengers she will carry approximately 4,800 tons cargo.

It is proposed after reconstruction when the vessel takes the water at Seattle to rename her the *Nanking* in honour of the ancient capital of China.

COMFORTS FOR OUR SOLDIERS
AND SAILORS

GIFTS RECEIVED BY THE HONGKONG WAR CHARITIES COMMITTEE.

The following gifts have been received by the War Charities Committee for the use of our Soldiers and Sailors at the front, and will be distributed in due course through the medium of the Committee's representative in London.

From Messrs. Waddington Asomall—5 chests China tea.
From La Insular Cigar Factory, Manila—One case tobacco cuttings.
From the Philippine Co. Manila—Two cases containing 425 packages of smoking tobacco, three cases containing 24,000 cigars, and 230 packages of smoking tobacco.

THE WAR.

ACTIVITY IN THE WEST.

MAKING MUNITIONS.

WHAT THE DEPARTMENT IS DOING.

GREEK SITUATION.

MESOPOTAMIA MATTERS.

Franco-Belgian Front.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

HEAVY BRITISH BOMBARDMENT.

LONDON, June 28th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We have heavily bombarded Fontaine les Croisilles.

We repulsed attacks to the south of the Coijal River.

Raiders entered the trenches to the east of Vermeilles, but they were immediately ejected.

"DRAGON'S CAVE."

HOW IT WAS CAPTURED.

LONDON, June 28th.

Reuter's correspondent at the French Headquarters, amplifying the news of the fighting at the "Dragon's Cave," which was reported in a communiqué earlier, says that the "Cave" stopped the French attack at the beginning of the offensive on April 16th. Both sides succeeded in establishing themselves in trenches traversing the roof, but the possession was to the advantage of the Boches, natural and artificial channels of communication enabling them to bring up reserves from shelter when required. The capture of the "Cave" and the spur jutting out from an adjoining crest called "The Finger," and the neighbouring position from which the garrison might expect assistance, began with a five days' bombardment.

The French possessed the southern entrance of the "Cave" and their fire commanded the main entrance, nullifying its use. It was impracticable to force a passage by the southern entrance, which the German posts commanded from within. The attacking force, consisting of picked men, attacked above ground and rushed the German trench line above the "Cave" and almost instantly stopped all exits from it. A Boche machine-gun post in the shaft running down to the interior of the "Cave" between the opposing trenches was put out of action by liquid fire. The French, through a hole made in the roof, steadily poured in bombs, and as the tenure of the "Cave" was impossible, the Germans surrendered. Altogether 317 were made prisoners.

GERMANS BEATEN OFF WITH SPADES.

LONDON, June 28th.

Correspondents at the British Headquarters say that during the fighting in the vicinity of Lens, a detachment of the Durham's beat off a German counter-attack with spades. The Durham's were digging a new trench in the darkness, when enemy infantry suddenly appeared. The Durham's had no time to seize their rifles or to summon help, but went for the Westphalians with uplifted spades, felling several and scattering others.

A second counter-attack by so-called "storm troops" was an equally miserable failure. These troops are merely youths of eighteen, and their employment is a new experiment in German attacks. They are commanded chiefly by non-commissioned officers and their moral is badly shaken by our constant shelling and night raids.

FUTILE ENEMY EFFORT.

PARIS, June 28th.

A communiqué states:—The artillery struggle has been particularly active in the regions of Hurtebise and Mont Cornille.

A German attempt on the Wattweiler salient to the north-east of Thann, failed. Two enemy aeroplanes were brought down.

Russian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

RUSSIAN OFFENSIVE?

LONDON, June 28th.

There is reason to believe that the Russians have begun an offensive at two points.

RUSSIANS DRIVING THE TURKS.

LONDON, June 28th.

A Russian official wireless message states:—We occupied Nania and Talish, to the north-west of Erzerum, driving back the Turks to the mountains in the region of Bistann. We continue to progress towards Pendjov.

Naval Activities.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

"MONGOLIA" CASUALTIES.

LONDON, June 28th.

An official announcement by the P. and O. Company states that two European and one Parsee passengers, and six European and fourteen of the native crew of the *Mongolia* were killed by the explosion. Of the balance, forty-five have been landed on the Indian coast, despite the monsoon weather.

SINKING OF THE "MONGOLIA."

LONDON, June 27th.

It is stated that four British engineers and ten Parsees on the *Mongolia* were killed by the explosion. Two European and one Parsee passengers are missing.

GERMAN INTRIGUE.

LONDON, June 28th.

A telegram from Stockholm states that dynamite has been discovered aboard a British steamer loading there. German agents are suspected.

The Near East.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

FIGHTING IN MESOPOTAMIA.

BRITISH AIRCRAFT DO GOOD WORK.

LONDON, June 28th.

A Mesopotamia official message states:—Our aeroplanes bombed and directly hit a Turkish river steamer.

Hostile aeroplanes on Monday bombarded our camps, without doing any damage. We retaliated on Tuesday by dropping twenty-four bombs on the enemy's camps at Tekrit, securing seven direct hits on tents.

The Balkans.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

GERMAN COMPENSATION TO HOLLAND.

SOME SHUFFLING.

AMSTERDAM, June 28th.

The Berlin official statement confirming the granting of compensation for the seven torpedoed Dutch steamers declares that the torpedoing was due to a derangement of the submarine's wireless apparatus.

This is in striking contrast to the announcement of February 28th, which threw the responsibility on the Dutch shipowners.

SITUATION IN GREECE.

FRENCH CAVALRY ACTIVE.

SALONIKA, June 28th.

French cavalry has occupied the town of Amphissa, in the Gulf of Corinth, between Bralo and Itea.

It is recalled that this route was originally selected for the transfer of the Serbian Army from Corfu to Salonika, which was finally effected by sea owing to opposition by the Skouliotis Cabinet.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

LORD STANLEY WINS.

LONDON, June 28th.

The Abercromby bye-election has resulted in a victory for Lord Stanley, who defeated Mr. Hughes by 2,224 votes to 794.

GREEK AFFAIRS.

TO CONVOKE A DISSOLVED PARLIAMENT.

ATHENS, June 28th.

A decree is about to be published convoking the Parliament elected on May 31st last year, in which there is a large Venizelist majority, and which ex-King Constantine arbitrarily dissolved.

The Government intends seeking the King's consent to convocate a national assembly, and to remodel the system of Constitutional Government.

SITUATION IN RUSSIA.

NO NEWS OF DURNOVO AFFAIR.

LONDON, June 28th.

Since the 24th inst. there has been nothing more from Petrograd about the Durnovo affair. Apparently the Government avoided a conflict in the midst of much inflammable material.

AUSTRIA AND PEACE.

A GUARANTEE WANTED.

AMSTERDAM, June 28th.

In the debate in the Austrian Parliament on the prospects of peace, the newly-elected Premier, Dr. von Seidler, declared that Austria-Hungary had always been ready to conclude an honourable peace, but it must include a guarantee for the assured development of the empire, otherwise they would continue to fight.

MESOPOTAMIA AIR SERVICE.

NO COMPLAINTS.

LONDON, June 28th.

In the House of Commons, Col. Baird stated that he was unaware that there had been any complaints regarding the aeroplanes supplied to Mesopotamia. General Maude stated that he would like certain additions to the aeronautical equipment of his forces and his wishes were met.

KEW BULLETIN.

LONDON, June 28th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Prothero stated that the suspension of the publication of the Kew bulletin was being considered. He hoped it might be possible to resume the publication.

AFFAIRS IN CHINA.

PEKING, June 28th.

The President has accepted a number of Chang Hsun's demands, including the reorganization of the Cabinet with a reduction of powers. The President is drafting the Constitution, and there will be a re-election of Parliament with reduced membership. Consequently, the Commanding Generals of Chihli, Shan-sung, Fengtien and Honan have agreed to withdraw their troops and to cancel their declarations of independence.

OBITUARY.

LONDON, June 28th.

The death is announced of Brigadier G. E. Holland.

SIR GEORGE BIRDWOOD.

LONDON, June 28th.

The death is announced of Sir George Christopher Moleworth Birdwood. Death took place suddenly from heart failure.

[The deceased, who was born in Bombay in 1853, was a K.C.I.E., and C.S.I., and was also a Knight of Grace of St. John of Jerusalem. He wrote extensively on Indian matters, many of his books and papers dealing with research work.]

BRAZIL REVOKES NEUTRALITY DECREES.

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 28th.

Brazil has revoked the decrees of neutrality in the war between the Allies and Germany.

NEW ZEALAND'S STATUS.

LONDON, June 28th.

Reuter is informed that the King's representative in New Zealand has been designated Governor-General, instead of Governor. The effect is to emphasise the fact that New Zealand's status is the same as the other Dominions where there are Governed Generals.

RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

PETROGRAD, June 28th.

The Provisional Government has decreed that the Constituent Assembly elections shall take place on September 31st and the meeting will be held on October 13th.

EARLIER CABLES.

ESPIONAGE.

ARRESTS IN DENMARK.

COPENHAGEN, June 28th.

Police investigations in a local espionage case have resulted in the arrest of the head of a Copenhagen office as well as two women assistants and three men who were frequent visitors to the office, all German-speaking.

GOLD FROM GERMANY.

AMSTERDAM, June 28th.

The *Handelblad* states that twelve million florins in gold have been received at the Dutch Bank. It is believed from Germany.

POOR GERMAN HARVEST.

ZURICH, June 28th.

The crop reports in the German papers show that the harvest has been unsatisfactory, owing to drought and destructive hail storms.

The Bavarian Ministry of Agriculture has ordered the Fire Brigades to be employed in irrigating.

DAYLIGHT SAVING IN AMERICA.

WASHINGTON, June 28th.

The Senate has passed a Daylight Saving Bill which will be applicable to 1918.

ITALY AND ALBANIA.

ROME, June 28th.

The Salonika correspondent of the *Messaggero* states that Essad Pasha has protested against an Italian Protectorate over Albania.

MORE INTRIGUE.

BRASIL, June 28th.

During a debate in the National Council, on the Hoffman affair, an Italian Deputy accused M. Groulch, the Socialist Deputy for Zurich, of visiting Italy with the object of offering money to Italian Socialists to oppose the war.

M. Groulch admitted that he went to Milan and Bologna on behalf of a third party, who asked him to transmit an offer of money by a person whose economic interests in Italy the war was endangering, "but the affair went no further."

MESOPOTAMIA BLUNDERS.

EXPECTED RESIGNATION OF LORD HARDINGE.

LONDON, June 27th.

The *Daily News* Lobby correspondent says that there is a general consensus of political opinion that Lord Hardinge must resign his Foreign Under Secretaryship.

It is understood that Mr. Austen Chamberlain will remain at his post, but it is expected that he will shortly submit a scheme of Governmental reform in India, including the closer linking up of the Home and Indian Governments.

ZEPPELIN FURVIVORS.

LONDON, June 28th.

The fact is now disclosed that there are three survivors from the Zeppelin which was destroyed on the 18th inst., including the Commander. The latter was shaken but not injured. When the military reached the burning wreckage from which two others were extricated, it was believed that they were dying, but they have since recovered.

ALLIED MILITARY CONFERENCE.

ROME, June 27th.

A military conference has been held at the Saint Jean de Maurienne railway station, at which Generals Cadorna, Poch, Ruffice and Perrin were present.

FOOD MINISTRY APPOINTMENT.

LONDON, June 28th.

General Wintour, the Director of Army Contracts, has been appointed Permanent Secretary to the Food Ministry.

COMPENSATION FOR AIR VICTIMS.

LONDON, June 28th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law announced that the Government would compensate the victims of air raids retrospectively and prospectively.

VOLUNTARY WORKERS.

LONDON, June 28th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law announced that so far there were 250,000 National Service volunteers; hence industrial compulsion was not contemplated.

MAKING MUNITIONS.

AN INTERESTING REVIEW.

LONDON, June 28th.

In the House of Commons, Dr. Addison strikingly reviewed the work of the Ministry of Munitions since it started two years ago. He said it was a stock of improvisation gradually leading to the formation of prodigious organisations. He paid a tribute to the courage and unceasing insight of Mr. Lloyd George and the unique and splendid efforts of the men and women of the employers and the employed, in providing an imperishable memorial to British genius and resource. He pointed out that the munitions work would be valuable industrially in times of peace. At all stages of the production of explosives, he instanced the fact that Britain's capacity for production, in March, 1917, was four times the capacity in March, 1916, and twenty-eight times the capacity in March, 1915.

With regard to gun ammunition, we had reached such a state of production that we had been able to divert some factories to assisting other branches. He mentioned that a large quantity of a new kind of explosive had proved most valuable in facilitating the Spring offensive and in the saving of life. He pointed out that the reserve of field gun ammunition had been provided, and arrangements were now working so smoothly that, despite the enormous expenditure of ammunition at the front, the stock of filled shells had only decreased by seven per cent. after the first nine weeks of the offensive.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig was most enthusiastic regarding the quality of the munitions. The output of machine guns and rifles was fully equal to the demand.

Regarding the supply of railway material for the Army, he said that railway lines were pulled up at Home and that India, Australia and Canada had also contributed. The Government of Canada held a meeting and, within forty-eight hours, arranged, if necessary, to pull up eight thousand miles of railway and ship it complete. Altogether, over two thousand miles of track had already been supplied and of locomotives considerably over a thousand. Supplies of new and improved tanks were coming forward excellently. He hinted at new developments in that connection.

Dealing with the overseas transport, he said that we were interested in nearly a million and a half tons of shipments monthly. Nevertheless, since the beginning of unrestricted submarine warfare, the heaviest loss of any single shell component shipped from America was under six per cent. He mentioned that Sir Frederick Black had visited India in order to assist the production of munitions there. The Government was most grateful that the valuable suggestions that Sir Frederick Black had made would have good results. He also mentioned the Inter-Allied Bureau, established in London, in order to pool the Allies' requirements in America and avoid competitive buying.

Negotiations were now proceeding with a view to enabling the United States to place their resources more readily and more effectively at the Allies' disposal, and for promoting economy in purchase. The Imperial Munitions Board was now the greatest business organisation in Canada, employing over 300,000 workers. He stated that Britain's output of steel, which was 7,000,000 tons yearly before the war, was now 10,000,000, and he hoped it would be 12,000,000 by the end of 1918. He mentioned that steel plates in Britain cost less than half what they cost in America, and shell steel was 30 per cent. less. We were now producing all the tungsten we needed, besides supplying much to Allies.

He anticipated most valuable results from the work of Sir Lionel Phillips for the development of the mineral resources of the United Kingdom. He hoped that before the end of the year our production of spelter, which before the war was only about one-third of our requirements, would be doubled. The scheme involved the working up of Australian zinc concentrates which were formerly largely German controlled. He announced that there were 30,000 skilled munitions volunteers while 40,000 soldiers released from the colours and 30,000 Army Reservists were employed on the cost of shell components compared with last year represented a saving of £23,000,000. He stated that the Ministry was taking steps to provide traders with information regarding the almost infinite mineral resources of the Empire.

THE PACIFISTS.

SEAMEN REMAIN FIRM.

LONDON, June 28th.

The conference of seafarers has reaffirmed the embargo on Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and Mr. Jovett going to Russia, although a telegram sent by Mr. Henderson from Petrograd was read, declaring that the embargo was likely to create difficulties for the provisional Government.

It was stated that 174,000 organised workers had so far approved the Union's attitude and 52,934 had disapproved of it.

Mr. Havelock Wilson said he had received two or three thousand communications from all parts of the Empire and the world endorsing the Union's action. He contemplated calling an International Seafarers' Conference on the subject of submarine murderers.

GERMANS ESCAPE FROM RUSSIA.

PETROGRAD, June 28th.

The newspapers state that 3,000 German prisoners escaped through Finland during the past month. The Finns did not assist in their recapture.

WAR SPEECH BY PREMIER.

LONDON, June 28th.

Mr. Lloyd George is expected to make an important speech when he is given the Freedom of the City of Glasgow on Friday.

SILVER.

LONDON, June 27th.

Silver is quoted at 35. There is China and other buying. The market is steady.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

GERMAN PRISONERS INCREASED EMPLOYMENT.

LONDON, June 28th.

In the House of Lords, Lord Milner, in making a statement on the agricultural labour arrangements, including 2,700,000 acres of grass land, instructions for the ploughing up of which have been issued, said that war prisoners were being increasingly employed. There were from five to six thousand fresh prisoners due from the front, the greater number of whom would be utilised agriculturally.

Lord Milner's reference in the House of Lords to the employment of war prisoners for agriculture, followed the statement that he had spent days and days in hunting labour. He was able to report substantial progress, and added that chief reliance must be placed in military labour. The military authorities were most sympathetic and had voluntarily released forty thousand men kept far Home Defence for the Spring operations, and seventeen thousand for the harvest. But this was insufficient for the Government's big programme. An absolute order had now been issued that no more men engaged in agriculture should be recruited, except with the consent of the Agricultural Committee. Soldiers now on the land, who would have been recalled to the colours on July 25th, would not be recalled unless replaced by men of equal efficiency. These numbered twenty-two thousand and a large additional number would be released weekly between July and September. Altogether between seventy and eighty thousand men have been added to the numbers available for agricultural work. These additions had not solved the labour problem, but they were a great advance and put an entirely new aspect on the matter.

The Duke of Marlborough announced that the Board of Agricultural Possession 828 tractors, of which 136 were English and the remainder American. Eight hundred and thirty motor ploughs had been purchased. It was hoped that several thousand tractors would be available, but their hopes had been somewhat disappointed.

BIG P. & O. DEAL.

LONDON, June 27th.

Lord Incheape, presiding at the meeting of the P. & O. Company, which confirmed the arrangements for the acquisition of the Union Company of New Zealand, mentioned that the purchase price of the Company was £3,000,000. Holders of 940,031 shares out of a total of one million had already accepted the P. & O. Company's offer.

COMMERCIAL TREATIES.

WHAT THE ALLIES ARE DOING.

LONDON, June 27th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law stated that the Italian Government had denounced, excepting two, all the Commercial Treaties under which the Italian tariff rates and duty have been fixed. The French have intimated their intention of taking similar action with exception. The British are considering the subject. This action will enable the Government to make new Treaties after the war.

WAR BREAD EPIDEMIC?

LONDON, June 28th.

Lord Rhonda is instituting an enquiry into the allegation that an epidemic of internal ailments is due to war bread.

CANADIAN STRIKE AT AN END.

CALGARY, June 27th.

The strike of eighty-thousand colliers in Western Canada, which has been progressing since April, has ended. The Government Commissioner has ordered an immediate resumption.

THE COTTON CRISIS.

BOARD OF CONTROL.

LONDON, June 27th.

The Cotton Conference is private, but an official statement will be issued. It is reported that the Conference decided to form a Board of Control for raw cotton. It is expected that the Liverpool Exchange will re-open on Friday under conditions framed by the Directors of the Liverpool Cotton Association with a view to avoiding all further speculation

THE IMPERIAL WAR CABINET A LANDMARK IN OUR CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

In the House of Commons last month Mr. Lloyd George, answering an inquiry by Mr. McKenna whether he had a statement to make to the House relating to the Imperial War Cabinet, said: "I think that I ought to report to the House a very important decision that was arrived at as a sequel to the recent meetings of the Imperial War Cabinet. It is desirable that Parliament should be officially and formally acquainted with an event that will constitute a memorable landmark in the constitutional history of the British Empire. The House will remember that in December last His Majesty's Government invited the Prime Ministers or leading statesmen of the Overseas Dominions and of India to attend the sittings both of the Cabinet and of an Imperial War Conference to be held in this country. It is to the former body, which assembled in March and held 14 sittings before separating, that I desire to refer. The British Cabinet became for the time being an Imperial War Cabinet. While it was in session its Overseas members had access to all the information which was at the disposal of His Majesty's Government, and occupied a status of absolute equality with that of the members of the British War Cabinet. It had prolonged discussions on all the most vital aspects of Imperial policy, and came to important decisions in regard to them—decisions which will enable us to prosecute the war with increased unity and vigour, and will be of the greatest value when it comes to the negotiation of peace. (Cheers.)"

FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS.
The conclusions of the Imperial War Cabinet are of necessity secret, but there is one aspect of them which we feel ought to be communicated to the House without delay. The Imperial War Cabinet was unanimous that the new procedure had been of such service not only to all its members but to the Empire that it ought not to be allowed to fall into desuetude. Accordingly at the last session I proposed formally, on behalf of the British Government, that meetings of an Imperial Cabinet should be held annually (cheers), or at any intermediate time when matters of urgent Imperial concern require to be settled, and that the Imperial Cabinet should consist of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and such of his colleagues as deal specially with Imperial affairs, of the Prime Minister of each of the Dominions, or some specially accredited alternate possession of equal authority, and of a representative of the Indian people to be appointed by the Government of India. This proposal met with the cordial approval of the Overseas representatives, and we hope has the holding of an annual Imperial Cabinet to discuss foreign affairs and other aspects of Imperial policy will become an accepted convention of the British Constitution. (Cheers.)

I ought to add that the institution in its present form is extremely elastic. It grows, not by design, but out of the necessities of the war. The essence of it is that the responsible heads of the Governments of the Empire, with those Ministers who are specially entrusted with the conduct of Imperial policy, should meet together at regular intervals to confer about foreign policy and matters connected therewith, and come to decisions in regard to them which, subject to the control of their own Parliaments, they will then severally execute. By this means they will be able to obtain full information about all aspects of Imperial affairs, and to determine by consultation together the policy of the Empire in its most vital aspects, without infringing in any degree the autonomy which its parts at present enjoy. To what constitutional development this may lead we did not attempt to settle. The whole question of perfecting the mechanism for "continuous consultation" about Imperial and foreign affairs between the "autonomous nations of an Imperial Commonwealth" will be reserved for the consideration of that special conference which will be summoned as soon as possible after the war to readjust the constitutional relations of the Empire. We felt, however, that the experiment of constituting an Imperial Cabinet, in which India was represented, had been so fruitful in better understanding and in unity of purpose and action that it ought to be perpetuated, and we believe that this proposal will commend itself to the judgement of all the nations of the Empire. (Cheers.)

WAR EXPENDITURE OF U.S.A.

\$11,000,000 A DAY.

Explaining to the Senate last month the reason for asking Congress to supply \$2,245,025,581 of new revenue this year, the Secretary of the Treasury filed a memorandum which showed that the total war bill the United States must meet in the first year will be \$6,019,949,833.

This means a daily expenditure of more than \$11,000,000 a day, or about one-third the amount the British Government is now spending, counting the entire debt.

Among the big appropriations listed Secretary McAdoo are the following: Military, including army, fortifications and military academy, \$2,338,210,047; Shipbuilding programme, 400,000,000; Munitions, 160,000,000; Emergency civil bill, 156,293,301; Permanent appropriations, 143,844,830; Emergency fund for the national defence, 100,000,000. It is estimated that Germany is spending \$21,000,000 per day, and Austria \$17,000,000.

"ONE OF THE FOULEST DEEDS IN HISTORY." DEPORTATIONS FROM BELGIUM. U.S. MINISTER'S INDICTMENT.

The following dispatch from Mr. Brand Whitlock, United States Minister to Belgium, which was written in January last, has been issued for publication by the United States Department of State:

In order to understand the situation fully it is necessary to go back to the autumn of 1914. At the time we were organizing the relief work, the Comité National, the Belgian relief organization that collaborated with the Commission for Relief in Belgium—proposed an arrangement by which the Belgian Government should pay to its own employees left in Belgium, and other unemployed men besides, the wages they had been accustomed to receive. The Belgians wished to do this both for humanitarian and patriotic purposes; they wished to provide the unemployed with the means of livelihood and, at the same time, to prevent their working for the Germans. The policy was adopted, and has been continued in practice, and on the rolls of the Comité National have been borne the names of hundreds of thousands—some 700,000 I believe—of idle men receiving this dole, distributed through the communes.

The presence of these unemployed, however, was a constant temptation to German cupidity. Many times they sought to obtain the lists of the *chômeurs*, but were always foiled by the claim that under the guarantees covering the relief work, the records of the Comité National and its various sub-organizations were immune. Rather than risk any interruption of the *rationnement*, for which, while loath to own any obligation to America, the Germans have always been grateful, since it has had the effect of keeping the population calm, the authorities never pressed the point, other than with the Bagmasters of the Communes. Finally, however, the military police always brutal and with an astounding ignorance of public opinion and of moral sentiment, determined to put these idle men to work.

In August, von Hindenburg was appointed to the supreme command. He is said to have criticized von Bissing's policy as too mild; there was a quarrel. Von Bissing went to Berlin to protest, threatened to resign, but did not. He returned, and a German official here said that Belgium would now be subjected to a more terrible régime, would learn what war was. The prophecy has been vindicated. The deportations began in October in the Etape, at Ghent, and at Bruges. The policy spread; the rich industrial districts of Hainaut, the mines, and steel works about Charleroi were next attacked, and now they are seizing men in Brabant, even in Brussels, despite some indications, and even predictions of the civil authorities, that the policy was about to be abandoned.

DEPORTATIONS FROM BRUSSELS.

During the last fortnight men have been impressed here in Brussels, but their seizures here are made evidently with much greater care than in the provinces, with more regard for the regularities. There was no public announcement of the intention to deport, but suddenly about 10 days ago, certain men in towns, whose names are on the list of *chômeurs*, received summons notifying them to report at one of the railway stations on a given day; penalties were fixed for failure to respond to the summons, and there was printed on the card an offer of employment by the German Government either in Germany or Belgium.

On the first day, out of about 1,500 men ordered to present themselves at the Gare du Midi about 700 responded. These were examined by German physicians and 300 were taken. There was no disorder, a large force of mounted Uhlans keeping back the crowds and barring access to the station to all but those who had been summoned to appear. The Commission for Relief in Belgium had secured permission to give to each deported man a loaf of bread, and some of the communes provided warm clothing for those who had none, and in addition a small financial allowance.

As by one of the ironies of life the winter has been more excessively cold than Belgium has ever known it, and, while many of those who presented themselves were adequately protected against the cold, many of them were without overcoats. The men shivering from cold and fear, the parting from weeping wives and children, the barriers of brutal Uhlans, all this made the scene a pitiable and distressing one.

The rage, the terror, and despair excited by this measure all over Belgium were beyond anything we had witnessed since the day the Germans poured into Brussels. The delegates of the Commission for Relief in Belgium, returning to Brussels, told the most distressing stories of the scenes of cruelty and sorrow attending the seizures. And daily, hourly almost, since that time appalling stories have been related by Belgians coming to the Legation.

The well-known tendency of sensational reports to exaggerate themselves, especially in time of war, and in a situation like that existing here, with no newspapers to serve as a daily clearing-house for all the rumours that are as avidly believed as they are eagerly repeated, should, of course, be considered, but even if a modicum of all that is told is true, there still remains enough to stamp this deed as one of the foulest that history records.

CORROBORATION FROM ALL PARTS.

I am constantly in receipt of reports from all over Belgium that tend to bear out the stories one constantly hears of brutality and cruelty. A number of men sent back to Mons are said to be in a dying condition, many of them tubercular. At Malines and at Antwerp returning men have died, their friends asserting that they have been victims of neglect and cruelty, of cold, of exposure, of hunger.

I have had requests from the burgomasters of 10 communes from La Louvière, asking that permission be obtained to send to the deported men in Germany

"CRUSADE OF MERCY." IMPRESSIVE RED CROSS SERVICE IN THE ABBEY.

High and deserved honour was paid to the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem last month at the service in Westminster Abbey. The suggestion that the Ascension Day Evensong should be made a "festival service" for these two societies, in thanking giving for the work they have done for sick, wounded, and prisoners during the war, was due to the Dean of Westminster, Bishop Ryle; and the form of the service, which included special features which Westminster Abbey seldom admits.

Queen Alexandra, who is President of the British Red Cross Society, occupied the easternmost choir stall on the south side. With her were the Princess Royal, Princess Victoria, and Princess Marie Louise of Schleswig-Holstein. Behind them, in the stall next to that of the Lectur, at the Duke of Connaught, Prior of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem; and on the opposite side to them were King Manoel and Queen Augusta Victoria, and Queen Apollonia of Greece.

The Prime Minister, accompanied at the last moment from attending. There was a crowded and (for these drab days) a picturesque congregation, comprising wounded soldiers and Red Cross workers (nearly all women) from all parts of the country, whose dark blue uniforms, badges, and hat-ribbons were to be seen on all sides.

While the congregation assembled, Sir Frederick Bridge and the drummer and trumpeters in his organ-loft played his own Elegy, founded on "Flowers of the Forest," and Gounod's "Marche Solennelle." The service was that of the annual Evensong, beginning with the Lord's Prayer, that follows the Absolution, and including the lessons and psalms proper to Ascension Day. The first part of the service was chanted by the Precentor, and the lessons were read by Minor Canon Perkins. The Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis were sung to Macfarren in E flat; and the anthem was Handel's "Let the bright Seraphim," the words of which are founded on some lines in Milton's poem "At a Solemn Music."

THREE SPECIAL PRAYERS.
The service after the anthem was taken by the Dean. Following the prayer for the Royal Family came three special prayers. The first gave thanks for the glad and generous support which the peoples of the Empire had rendered to the Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John for the relief of the wounded and sick in ambulance, train, and hospital, and for the comfort and sustenance of our prisoners in the enemy's hands.

The second prayer for a blessing upon the innumerable host of fellow-workers in this crusade of mercy; and the third for a continuance of Christ's gracious work of healing, especially in hospitals and ambulances, and for the gift of wisdom and skill, sympathy, tenderness, and patience to all those engaged in the work. A collection for the funds of the societies was taken during the singing of the hymn "Hail the day that sees Him rise," and when this was finished there came a rare event in Westminster Abbey services—a procession. Led by the organ and preceded by Sir Frederick Bridge and the trumpeters, the choir and clergy passed under the choir-screen, turned northward, and made the complete circuit of the ambulatory, to enter the choir again under the screen, singing meanwhile the hymn, "For all the saints." It is hard to say whether eye or ear received the nobler impression. The scarlet cassocks of the Abbey choir and the robes of the clergy glowed against the background of ancient grey stone. As the choir drew near or went farther off, passed out of sight behind the high altar, or flowed full up the centre of the choir, the effect of the music, voices, organ, and trumpets was august and beautiful. Finally—another rare event in Westminster Abbey—both choir and clergy were massed in the sacristy east of the altar-rails and high above the congregation.

The Dean said the prayer for victory, and another, and before he pronounced the Blessing, the choir sang, unaccompanied, the anthem which Sir Frederick Bridge has composed on the lines spoken by Shakespeare's saintly King Henry. God's goodness hath been great to thee. I'll never day nor night unbelov'd pass. But still remember what the Lord hath done.

Then all present sang a verse of the National Anthem, and to the music of Mendelssohn's March from *Altkalder* the congregation dispersed.

packages of food similar to those that are being sent to prisoners of war. Thus far the German authorities have refused to permit this except in special instances, and returning Belgians claim that even when such packages are received they are used by the camp authorities only as another means of coercing them to sign the agreements to work.

It is said that, in spite of the liberal salary promised those who would sign voluntarily, no money has as yet been received in Belgium from workmen in Germany.

One interesting result of the deportations remains to be noted, a result that once more places in relief the German capacity for blundering, almost as great as the German capacity for cruelty.

They have dealt a mortal blow to any prospect they may ever have had of being tolerated by the population of Flanders, in tearing away from nearly every humble home in the land a husband and a father, or a son and brother, they have lighted a fire of hatred that will never go out; they have brought home to every heart in the land, in a way that will impress its horror indelibly on the memory of three generations, a realization of what German methods mean, now as with the early atrocities in the heat of passion and the first lust of war, but by one of those deeds that make this despair of the future of the human race, a deed coldly planned, methodically executed, a deed of deliberate and systematic execution, said to have been in the execution, and so monstrous that even German officers are now said to be ashamed.

SEELIGMANN-SELWYN. STORM AT HIS SALE.

There were extraordinary scenes at the Tottenham-auction mart in London recently when by order of the Public Trustee, the London Emery Work Company, Ltd., a German business, was offered for sale, together with its naturalised director, Emil Seeligmann or Selwyn, a man of German origin.

For three quarters of an hour the room rang with protests against the sale of this "live-stock." Many of the business men, who came from all parts of the country, discovered for the first time in the auction room that Seeligmann (or Selwyn) was, by the articles of association, a director for life with a salary of £1,250 a year. The position and salary were assumed by him when he turned this onerous business into a British limited liability company on September 9th, 1914, one month after the declaration of war.

Mr. Palmer, of Messrs. Coward & Macleay, solicitors to the Public Trustee, attempted to quell the storm by an offer to indemnify the purchaser against any action taken by Seeligmann (or Selwyn). This offer was repudiated as worthless by the business men.

After many protests Mr. Horsey, of Messrs. Buller, Horsey, Sons & Cassell, the auctioneers, asked for bids. Not a man in the room would bid. Mr. Horsey then announced that there was "no sale" amid general cheers.

Mr. Horsey began the sale by describing the property and assets of the company, which was established as a branch of the great German Emery Trust in the year 1900 by Emil Seeligmann. He then came to "another little point," the liability of the purchaser to pay Seeligmann-Selwyn a salary of £1,250.

"To provide for any liability," said Mr. Horsey, "in respect of Mr. Selwyn's engagement."

"Ah!" said the Room, "what is it?" "£1,250 a year."

"For life!" ejaculated a business man. "What age is he?" asked another.

"Yes," said Mr. Horsey, smiling, "he is to get it for life, whether he works or not. But the articles of association can be altered and Mr. Selwyn can be dismissed."

"And he can bring an action," said a would-be purchaser. "Then we are buying a law suit," said another.

Mr. Arnold Goodwin, "son of an engineering firm," I am British, I object to this historic room being turned into a slave market. We are not going to buy human flesh.

Mr. Horsey: I am offering the property.

Mr. Goodwin: I don't want to buy the man; you have no right to offer him for sale.

Mr. Horsey: We assume that the purchaser will not require Mr. Selwyn and that he will be dismissed. He may or may not bring an action. In any case the vendor will stand it up to the full amount of the purchase price. We don't look upon him as a liability.

HIDDEN HAND.
At this moment one of the uniformed attendants created a diversion by entering the room and asking with an innocent air, "Is Mr. Selwyn here? He is wanted on the phone."

There was no response, and Mr. Palmer, the solicitor, began to explain the offer of the Public Trustee to indemnify a purchaser against any action brought by Seeligmann-Selwyn. "His position as a director is determined within six weeks."

The Room harried Mr. Palmer with questions: "Why was not this put in the original conditions?"

"Who is shielding this man?" "How old is he?" "About 55," was the answer to the last question. "About 45," said the Room.

Mr. Thomas Miller Jones, of the Invicta Mills, then asked an important question: "Will you give an undertaking that he will not take the workmen away with him? He has made that statement this week."

The storm broke out afresh: "Couldn't you clear the ship by removing Mr. Selwyn?"

"Is he in the room?" "Will he come into the box?" "You can't call that an indemnity. How about costs?"

"Will you take £5 for it?" "Is this a live-stock sale?" "Why don't you adjourn this auction?"

"Why don't you wind up the company and sell it clear of Seeligmann?" Mr. Palmer, after consultation with Mr. Horsey and an argument with possible purchasers as to the length of time it might take to get rid of Seeligmann, said: "You can have two months if you like instead of six weeks."

The Room: It's a d— shame. It's a scandalous farce.

Mr. Palmer: We'll make it three months.

The Room: There's some "hidden hand" in this job. You've got to eliminate Selwyn.

Mr. Arnold Goodwin: I can warn you you are in trouble if you sell this property.

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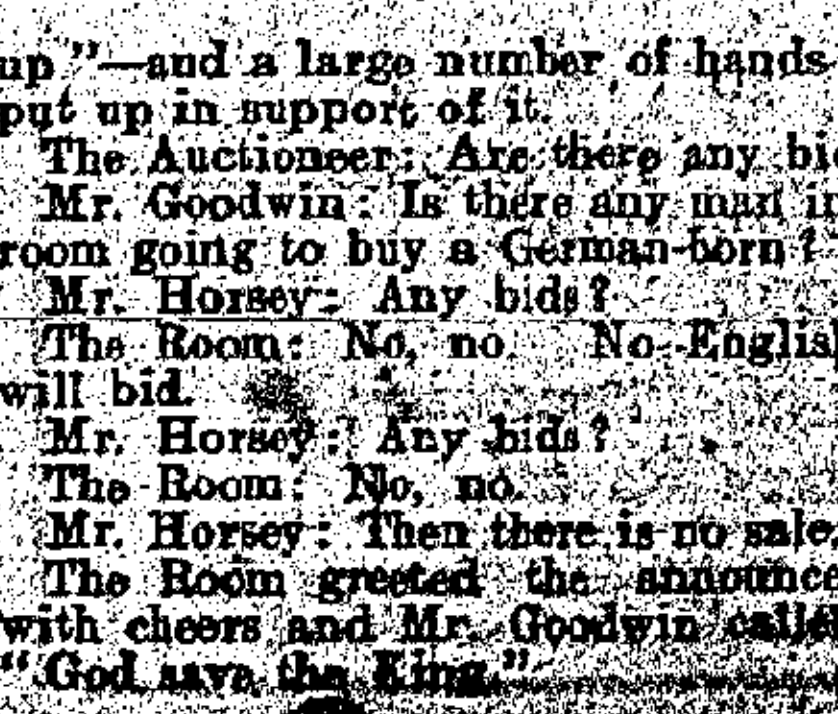
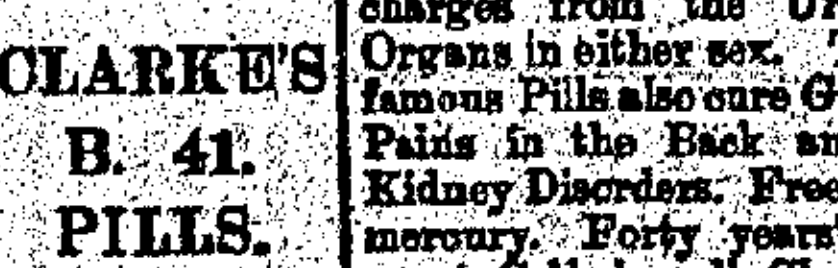
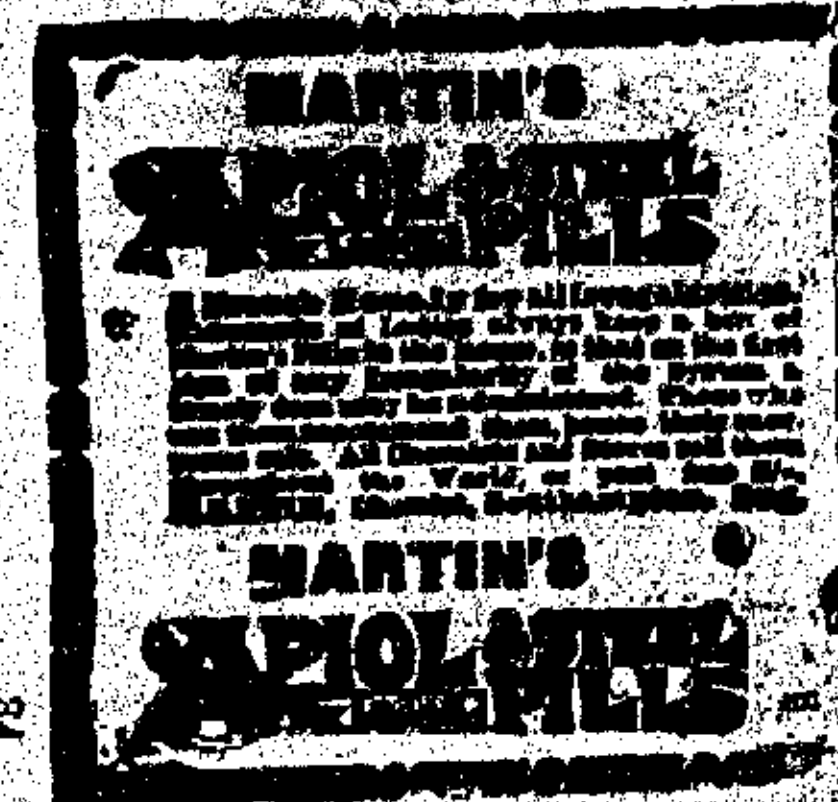
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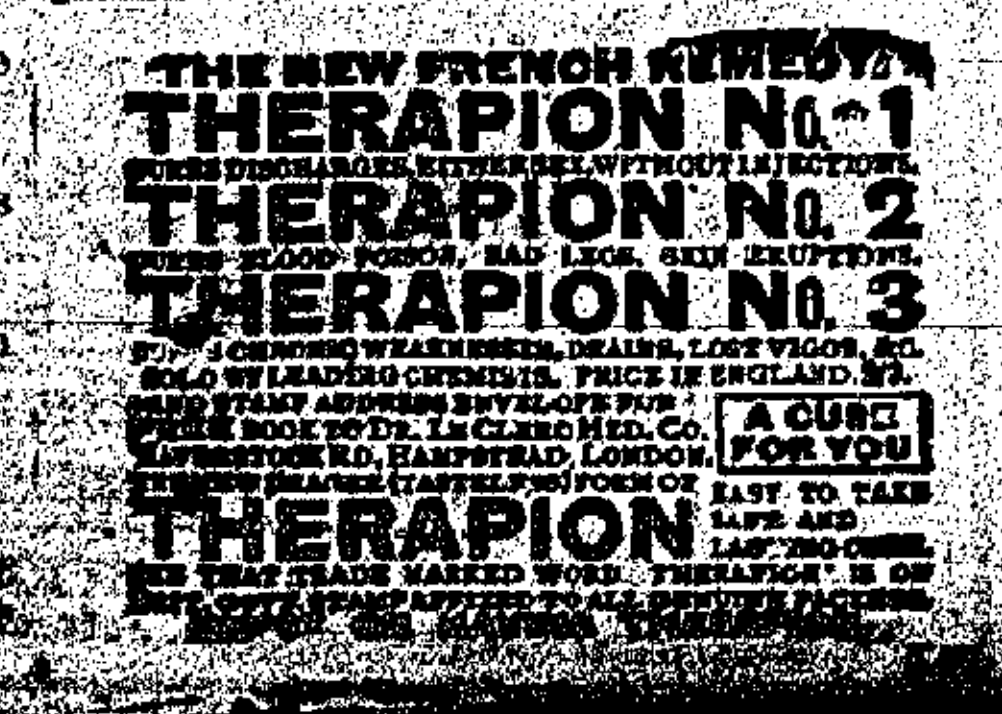
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